

New students from Language Backgrounds other than English should be expected to conform to class rules and take part in general class activities, even when they have no English. Give them the books required in class and try to include them in the same activities.



LABEL OBJECTS

To help a new arrival find commonly used items around the room. Label with a sentence. e.g. This is the desk. This is 4L's classroom. This is the class library. This is XXXX's desk ...etc

Joining In

Use a range of activities that encourage newly arrived ESL students to join in.

Outdoor games that can be played in the playground skipping, handball, elastics, basketball, soccer.

Indoor games that can be played in class or taken home - chess, cards, bingo, dominoes, board games.



Television

Tape videos of shows like Play School, Behind the News, Words and Pictures, and other literacy & s programs.

Allow the students to view during the day. Especially good when students are tired. Also microphones, CD & MP3 players, tape recorders and language masters are other useful hardware when teaching newly arrived students with little English



Information for ESL and Class teachers of newly arrived students from language backgrounds other than English

What do I do in the first few weeks?



Model language: Hello, Good Morning, Please, Thank you, recess, lunch, Can I play, Can I go..., stand up, sit down, stop, go, line up, Goodbye.

Let the students play!

Puppets, sand play, water play, home corner, dolls, dressing up, Lego, blocks, Mobilo, cars, picture dictionaries, cards, dominoes and magazines.



Literacy

Oral -Involve the children in Picture talks in small groups related to current unit/work

Talking- have a opportunities for new arrivals to talk in first language if possible or in small groups on a shared task

Reading - have bilingual books if possible, a reading buddy in English. Let the child listen to illustrated books with tapes.

Translations are available for many books.

Writing - allow student to write in own language. Parent or relative may be able to translate but this will give the student a sense of achievement.



Mathematics

Numeracy - oral counting and operations activities.

Space and Measurement – describing attributes size, shape, colour; comparative language –big, bigger, biggest– relate to real life experiences. Allow students to use concrete materials and discuss what they do and see.

Creative and Practical Arts

Music-singing can be a good way to help the learn English. Action songs with movement and involvement e.g. Farmer in the dell, Old MacDonald, This Old Man.

Art & Craft-label objects and discuss use.

Drama - sharing mime and drama games can bring class groups together in understanding issues and emotions

Dance - teach dances that are not language intensive but use the vocabulary of dance. e.g. kick, step, shuffle, side to side etc. Be mindful that some cultures do not dance or may not dance in mixed groups



PE & SPORT

Involve older students in the school sports program. Encourage the new student to learn to swim if such a program exists within the school.

****Remember to explain costs****

In PE give simple instructions e.g. catch, roll, throw, kick, strike, run, hop etc. Ask questions e.g. What am I doing? What are you doing?

Computer Studies

Allow the students access to computer. There are many good programs , learning objects and resources ESL students can use in a group and on their own. Include word processing programs too. see TALE



Thinking Time



New ESL students need time to become confident speakers of English language in an academic setting.

When asking questions: try to give the ESL students time to answer. Say, "I want you to think. I will not ask the first person with their hand up." Wait about 5-7 seconds. This gives the ESL students time to formulate an answer in English.

Still unsure? Call the ESL Consultant for your region for some helpful advice and talk to the ESL Teacher or ESL mentor if you have one.